

BOOK NOTICE

SWINK, FLOYD and GEROULD WILHELM. 1993. **Plants of the Chicago Region**. Fourth Edition. (ISSN 1-883362-01-6, hbk). Indiana Academy of Science, 1102 North Butler Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219-2918. \$28.00 (Academy members); \$35.00 (non-members) (+ postage: \$2.50 domestic, \$5.00 foreign). 921 pp.

The "Chicago Area," lying within a 75-mile radius of the Windy City's center, includes parts of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The first (1969) and second (1974) editions of this work were by Swink alone; the third (1979) added Wilhelm and well-done keys. This fourth edition, with 226 more taxa than its predecessor, is the most splendid of them all. Even though Chicagoland is urbanized and depressingly industrialized, it still has many "natural" areas and a flora of 2530 taxa, about 35% of them introduced. The arrangements of families, genera, and species is strictly alphabetical, as in an ordinary dictionary. Look, then, for the key to genera of Cyperaceae under the C's; the key to, and species entries for, *Scirpus* under the S's. The species accounts include not only habitat/historical/phenological/taxonomic/nomenclatural data, but also listings, often lengthy, of associated species. The glossary is well illustrated; the bibliography has about 1750 entries. Swink & Wilhelm bring to this impressive and authoritative work a total of some 75 years of experience in passionate pursuit of plants in their region. Could a flora be written by authors more qualified for the task? I doubt it.—*John W. Thieret*.